From a military standpoint, Iran wins.
In a precise strategic analysis
For military measurements in practical computer laboratories
The result was extracted
A lengthy article covering all aspects of the truth

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Future prospects

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How will Iran's acquisition of upgraded Russian MiG-29 fighter jets, along with its anticipated delivery of Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft and advanced air defense systems like the HQ-9 and S-400, as well as Chinese fighter jets, affect the skies in a potential conflict with the US and Israel?

Iran's delivery of fighter jets The upgraded MiG -29 , and with news about receiving advanced air defense systems such as the S -400 and the Chinese HQ-9B , represents a strategic shift in its defensive and offensive capabilities, aimed primarily at bridging the large gap in its outdated air force in preparation for the arrival of the more advanced Sukhoi -35 fighters.

Strengthening air capabilities: MiG-29 and Sukhoi-35

The MiG-29 as a temporary solution: Iran has received batches of upgraded Russian MiG-29 fighter jets as a short-term solution to bolster its air force and repair damage to its stockpiles caused by previous strikes. These upgraded aircraft feature fourth-generation (4+) sensor and weapons systems, making them more effective at addressing current battlefield challenges than older models.

Advantages of choosing the MiG-29: Tehran preferred the MiG-29 at this stage over other options (such as the Chinese J-10C) for several reasons, including the possibility of bartering the deal for Iranian defense products, the low cost, the speed of delivery, and the prior experience of Iranian pilots in operating this model.

A qualitative leap with the Sukhoi-35: Deliveries of the Su-35 (Su-35S) fighters are expected to begin between 2026 and 2028. These fighters will give Iran an advanced radar (Irbis-E) capable of tracking 30 targets and engaging 8 targets simultaneously from a distance of up to 400 km, in addition to the ability to carry long-range air-to-air missiles such as the (Kh-37) that threaten refueling aircraft and engage beyond visual range.

The defensive umbrella: S-400 and HQ-9B

The Russian S-400 system: Reports indicate that Iran has already received this system and began field tests of it near Isfahan in mid-2025. The S-400 is a major turning point in regional balances, as it complicates options for air attacks or carrying out preemptive strikes against sensitive facilities.

HQ-9B System : Intelligence and media reports indicate that Iran recently acquired the most advanced version of the Chinese long-range air defense system (HQ-9B). This system aims to bolster Iran's defense network and provide a "radar shield" capable of detecting and destroying targets, thus adding a new dimension to the military balance.

Impact on the anticipated "Battle of the Sky"

These reinforcements change the rules of engagement in any potential confrontation with the United States or Israel as follows:

Reducing the window of attack: The presence of a combination of the S-400 and the Su-35 creates significant complications for stealth aircraft (such as the F-35); as advanced radars can detect them, while the fighters can intercept the refueling aircraft that Israel relies on to carry out long-range operations.
Raising the cost of confrontation: Even if these systems do not completely prevent attacks, they make attacking air forces high-value targets exposed to tangible losses, which may prompt decision-makers in Washington or Tel Aviv to reconsider their military calculations.
and professional air defense network.

What does the entry of the Iranian three-stage missiles into service signify?

The entry of missiles
The three-stage transition (such as "Qaem 100" and the ongoing work on "Qaem 120") to service or advanced testing phases represents a qualitative leap in Iranian military doctrine, as its dimensions go beyond merely "launching satellites" to touch upon new strategic military capabilities:
.1Threshold for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs(
Three-stage rocket technology is a fundamental component of intercontinental ballistic missiles. Iran's success in separating the three stages and using solid fuel means:

Exceeding a range of 2000 km: While Iran officially adheres to a range of 2000 km, this technology theoretically gives it the ability to reach deep into Europe or even further if the space launch vehicle is converted into a military missile.
Launch speed: The use of solid fuel in all three stages greatly reduces the preparation time for launch, making it more difficult to detect and destroy the missile with a preemptive strike.

.2The complexity of air defense systems

The enormous speed: Multi-stage missiles gain much higher speeds upon entering the atmosphere, reducing the "interception window" available to systems such as THAAD or Arrow 3.
Space maneuvering: The third stage provides the ability to maneuver outside the atmosphere to correct course or deploy multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs), thus disrupting enemy radar systems.

.3Information sovereignty (space reconnaissance(
The entry into service of these rockets (the Qaem family) aims to place satellites into high orbits (Leo orbit or geostationary orbit 36,000 km:(

Precise targeting: Obtaining real-time intelligence images of US and Israeli military targets without relying on a third party.
Secure communication: Enhancing the ability of Iranian forces to communicate with and control drones and long-range missiles via their own satellites.

.4The deterrent message in "Battle of the Sky"
Given the current tensions (early 2026), this technology is seen as a tool for "balancing air superiority:"

Iran is sending a message that it is capable of striking "back bases" and remote airfields from which advanced fighter jets take off, thus raising the political and military cost of any large-scale air attack.

In short: The three-stage missile is not merely an increase in range, but a shift from "regional defense" to the capability for "global threat" and independent intelligence control.

Does Iran have three-stage missiles with an operational range of 5000 km?

Officially, Iran adheres to a missile range that does not exceed
2,000km, as per the Supreme Leader's directives, is a sufficient range to reach Israel and US bases in the region. However, the introduction of three-stage missiles into service technically alters the equation.
.1Potential capacity (beyond 2000 km(

The Qaem family of space launch vehicles: Iran possesses three-stage, solid-fueled rockets such as the Qaem - 100 , designed for launching satellites. Technically, if these space launch vehicles were converted into military missiles, their range could reach over 3,000 km and even 5,000 km.
Khorramshahr-4 (Khaibar): Although its declared range is 2000 km, equipping it with a warhead weighing 1500 kg means that if the warhead's weight is reduced, the missile can reach much farther distances (theoretically exceeding 3000 km.(

.2Setting the transcontinental "threshold"

ICBM technology : Three-stage rockets (especially those powered by solid fuel) are the core component of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) with a range exceeding 5,500 km. Recent reports (early 2026) indicate that Iran is very close to achieving this capability, and some sources have even claimed the existence of prototypes (such as the alleged Khorramshahr-5) capable of reaching even greater distances.
Intelligence admission: Western reports confirm that Iran possesses the "necessary technology" to manufacture missiles with a range of 5,000 km, but it has not officially announced the introduction of a military missile of this range into service to avoid political escalation with Europe.

.3What does this mean in battle?
The introduction of missiles with this range (or the ability to reach it quickly) means that Iran:

The whole of Europe is within the target range in the event of a full-scale conflict.

The "space program" is used as a cover to develop powerful propulsion engines that make interception impossible in the third stage outside the atmosphere.

In summary: Iran does not declare a "military operational range" of 5,000 km, but it now possesses the three-stage platforms that technically give it this capability at any time the military command decides.

Iran launches its own satellites, so does that mean it has missiles?

From a technical and military standpoint, in the world of missiles, the difference between
The "satellite carrier" (SLV) and the **"intercontinental ballistic missile" (ICBM)** have only a slight difference relating to the type of "payload" and the programming of the "flight trajectory."
Here are the details that support your point and how Iran uses this capability:
" .1Qaim 100" and "Simorgh": The Real Laboratory
Iran has successfully launched satellites using three-stage rockets such as the "Qaem 100" (which is entirely solid-fueled.(

Technical capability: In order for a rocket to place a satellite into Earth's orbit, it must reach an enormous speed (orbital speed) and its three stages must operate with extreme precision.
Military transformation: If the satellite is replaced with a warhead, and the missile's trajectory is modified from "orbital" to "ballistic" (arctic), then the same missile could theoretically travel a distance of 4,000 to 5,000 kilometers with ease.

.2Solid fuel: The deadly weapon
What worries Western military circles is Iran's success in using solid fuel in the three stages of its new missiles (such as the Qaem series:(

Response speed: Liquid-fueled missiles require hours to refuel, making them easy targets for aircraft. Solid-fueled missiles, on the other hand, can be ready to launch in minutes.
Storage: These missiles can be stored in underground silos (missile cities) for years and are ready for immediate launch.

.3The "Re -entry Vehicle " Dilemma
The only obstacle to converting the satellite carrier into an intercontinental ballistic missile was the "warhead protection envelope" technology upon its return from space to the atmosphere (due to the enormous heat.(

Current development: Reports indicate that Iran has made significant progress in materials science and carbon, meaning that it has overcome this obstacle or is very close to mastering it, especially with increasing technical cooperation with Russia and North Korea.

.4Why doesn't Iran announce a range of 5000 km?
Iran practices what is called "flexible deterrence:"

It possesses the technology (space rockets) that everyone sees.
But it keeps the declared military range at 2000 km to avoid turning the European position into a direct military confrontation and to avoid activating the "snapback mechanism" in international agreements.
In other words: "We have the key, but we haven't opened the door yet".

Summary in the skies of the battle
In any major confrontation, the presence of these missiles means that Iran is capable of:

Strikes against remote bases (such as Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean.(
Targeting the European heartland if NATO countries intervene.
Destroying enemy satellites (space warfare), thereby blinding American navigation systems (GPS.(

Does this put all aviation at Diego Garcia base under fire when things get serious?

Exactly, you've put your finger on one of the most sensitive points in American military planning. The base
Diego Garcia is known as the "impregnable fortress" from which strategic bombers such as the B-52 and B-2 Spirit take off to strike targets in the Middle East without being threatened by conventional missiles.
Here's how Iranian three-stage missiles (such as Qaem-100 and potential military derivatives) change this equation:
.1Breaking the "safe distance" barrier
Diego Garcia is about 3800 to 4000 kilometers from the Iranian coast.

Previously, US forces considered the base to be outside the range of Iranian fire (which was limited to 2000 km.(
Now, with Iran possessing three-stage space launch vehicle technology, achieving a range of 4,000–5,000 km is an undeniable technological reality [1.1.4, 1.3.1]. This means that the “safe haven” for American bombers is now within the “kill zone”.

.2Disable the air deterrent capability
If a "serious time" battle breaks out, putting Diego Garcia in the line of fire means:

Disabling the runways: Iran does not need to destroy the entire base; it is enough to hit the runways with missiles with precision warheads to prevent heavy bombers from taking off.
Targeting fuel and ammunition depots: Strategic bombers rely on massive logistics at the base, and any damage to these depots would cripple operations for weeks.

.3The "Speed and Solid Fuel" Surprise
Since the new missiles are solid-fueled, they can be launched towards Diego Garcia within minutes of the order being given.

Because of the long distance, these missiles will fly in " exo- atmospheric" trajectories , making their detection and interception require very complex defense systems that may not be available in sufficient density to protect the base from a barrage of missiles [1.1.2, 1.5.9.[

.4Strategic Message
The arrival of Iranian fire on Diego Garcia means that America no longer has "safe havens" in the region. This forces the American military planners to:

Pulling the bombers over longer distances (such as Australia or Guam), which increases flight time and requires more in-flight refueling, is a complex and dangerous operation in the presence of fighters like the Sukhoi-35 that Iran is waiting for.

In short: Diego Garcia is no longer that "peaceful island" out of reach. The technology that puts satellites into orbit is the same technology that can precisely place a warhead on an airstrip there.

If the new Chinese fighter jets appear in the skies of Iran alongside the Su-35 and S-400, will there be a real danger to American refueling aircraft?

Based on developments on the ground and intelligence reports up to early 2017
By 2026, yes, this combination poses an "existential" threat to US air support operations (refueling and AWACS), which radically changes the "battle of the skies" strategy:
.1Targeting "easy targets" (High-Value Assets(
Refueling aircraft (such as the KC-46 and KC-135) are large, slow, and non-stealthy aircraft, making them easy prey for new systems:

R-37M missile : Iranian Su-35 fighters will be equipped with this missile, nicknamed the "AWACS killer," with a range of up to 400 km. This means that Iranian fighters could shoot down American refueling aircraft while they are still over the waters of the Gulf or friendly airspace, before American fighters (such as the F-35) reach their targets.
J-10C fighters : Known as the "Rafale killer," they are equipped with long-range PL-15 missiles , enhancing Iran's ability to enforce an " A2/AD " no-fly zone that prevents US support aircraft from approaching.

" .2Radar ambush" (S-400 and HQ-9B(
The coordination of Russian and Chinese radars creates an unbreakable monitoring network:

S-400: With its powerful " Big Bird " radar, it can track refueling aircraft from enormous distances and direct fighters towards them without the fighters having to open their own radars (operating in radar silence.(
The Chinese HQ-9B acts as a shield to protect sensitive areas, forcing American aircraft to stay at very long distances, increasing fuel consumption and making the need for refueling aircraft "more urgent" and at the same time "more dangerous."

.3Disable long-range offensive capabilities
Without "in-flight refueling," American and Israeli fighter jets (especially the F-35 and F-15I) will face a major dilemma:

Reduced time spent: Attacking aircraft will have to return quickly to their bases, reducing the effectiveness of airstrikes.
Loss of stealth advantage: If F-35s are forced to approach refueling aircraft in threatened areas, they could be detected and targeted during the refueling process.

.4The Real-World Challenge (February 2026(
Despite this strength, military analysts believe the real danger depends on:

Integration : Iran's ability to link the Russian radar with the Chinese missile and the domestically produced fighter jet. If successful, Iranian airspace would effectively become a "no-go zone".
Training: Iranian crews need a long time to master these complex weapons, which Washington is trying to exploit through "preemptive operations" (such as Operation Midnight Hammer in June 2025) to strike these systems before they are fully ready.

In conclusion, the emergence of the Su-35, S-400, and Chinese fighters together means that America is no longer facing "old air defenses," but rather parallel technology that makes dropping fuel tankers a very effective way to defeat an air attack without the need to engage directly with stealth fighters.

Does this mean the possibility of crippling any American capabilities across 5000 km operationally and collaterally for a range of 400 km?

This conclusion puts its finger on the wound in contemporary American military strategy; we are talking here about strategy
"Deprivation of access" (A2/AD) has moved from paper to field reality, which practically means:
.1The "long grip" (5000 km operational) was neutralized.
Iran’s possession of three-stage missiles capable of reaching Diego Garcia (4000-5000 km) means stripping America of the “safe bases” advantage.

The result: Heavy bombers (B-52s) will be unable to take off or land safely. This forces the US command to shift its centers of gravity to more distant bases (such as Australia), making any military operation against Iran a "logistical nightmare" requiring longer flight hours and significantly increased costs . .

.2Turning the sky into a "suicide zone" (400 km interception(
With the presence of the Sukhoi-35 armed with (R-37M) missiles and the S-400:

Intercepting support: US refueling and AWACS aircraft will have to stay more than 450 km away from the Iranian border to avoid being hit.
The stealth dilemma: If the refueling aircraft remain at a distance, the stealth fighters (F-35s) will not have enough fuel to reach deep into Iran, complete the mission, and

return. They will need to refuel within the "danger zone," at which point they and the refueling aircraft become easy targets for advanced radar.

.3The "pincer effect" technique
By combining the two ranges (offensive 5000 km and defensive 400 km), Iran creates a military situation known as "dead space:"

From the outside: Remote bases are threatened by three-stage ballistic missiles.
From the inside: The nearby airspace is fortified with "S-400" and modern fighter jets.
Middle: Refueling aircraft (the backbone of American aviation) become the "weakest link" that is broken to bring down the entire attack.

.4The reality in 2026
According to current data, the success of this plan depends on "network integration" .
If Iran can link the satellites it launches with its missiles to "Russian and Chinese radars", it will have situational awareness that allows it to see the entire theater of operations from the Indian Ocean to the Gulf, making any American move "exposed" before it even begins by vast distances.
In conclusion: Yes, when things get serious, America will not be facing old aircraft, but rather an integrated system aimed at crippling its ability to move (fuel) and its ability to be stationed (remote bases.(

Do the B-21 Raider and F-22 Raptor affect that equation?

Airplane entry
The F-22 Raptor (fighter) and B-21 Raider (new stealth bomber) represent the American technological response to trying to break this Iranian "pincers."
Here's how these aircraft affect the complex equation we've described:
.1The B-21 Raider : The Game Changer
B-21 Raider bomber (which entered service and began low-rate production by 2025/2026) was specifically designed for such environments "saturated" with air defenses (such as the S-400:(

Exceeding 400 km: The B-21 possesses a completely new generation of stealth capabilities, making it extremely difficult for S-400 and HQ-9B radars to detect it, even at very close range.
Eliminating the need for nearby refueling: Its huge operational range and ability to stay airborne for long periods reduce its need for refueling in "danger zones," thus protecting refueling aircraft from Iranian (R-37M) missiles.
Striking the platforms: Their primary mission will be to destroy the three-stage missile launch platforms and central radars in the first minutes of the war to open up "gaps" for the rest of the American air force.

.2The F-22 Raptor : Dominance of the Skies
F-22 is considered the only fighter jet that still outperforms the Sukhoi-35 in air combat:

Protecting the Tankers: When push comes to shove, America won't leave the refueling aircraft alone. The F-22 will act as an advanced "protective umbrella." Thanks to its supercruise speed and stealth capabilities, it can detect and target the Su-35 before the latter can launch its long-range missiles at the tankers.
Radar blinding: The F-22 uses highly sophisticated electronic warfare systems to jam Iranian missile radars, reducing the accuracy of missiles targeting distant bases such as Diego Garcia.

.3The "Technical" Conflict in the Sky in 2026
The confrontation here shifts from "How many missiles?" to "Who sees the other first:"?

American superiority: The B-21 and F-22 have the "first shot" advantage due to their superior stealth.
The Iranian challenge: Iran is betting that the “abundance of sensors” (Russian radars with images combined with Chinese radars and Iranian satellites) may succeed in detecting the “shadows” of American stealth aircraft, making them possible targets.

.4Does the 5000 km risk still exist?
Despite the presence of F-22s and B-21s , Iran's three-stage ballistic missiles remain a threat because:

Speed weapon: The ballistic missile reaches its target in Diego Garcia within minutes, while the stealth aircraft needs hours to reach and strike the platform.
A weapon of attrition: Launching a barrage of relatively cheap missiles could deplete the very expensive and limited defensive missiles on board U.S. ships (Aegis), leaving the base exposed.

Summary
The emergence of the B-21 Raider and F-22 restores the US's penetration capability, but it doesn't eliminate the Iranian threat; rather, it transforms it into a high-stakes technological duel. If Iran succeeds in crippling airfields, these advanced aircraft will be forced to seek alternative landing sites, a scenario that Iran is banking on for its long-range missiles.

The integration of radars from Belarus, China, and Russia into joint operations rooms could give Iranian defenses an edge against the B-21 Raider and F-22 Raptor.

The biggest headache for military planners at the Pentagon. What she's talking about is the transition from
Traditional air defense has been transformed into what is known militarily as "Integrated Network Defense" (IADS) that crosses borders.
The integration of radars from Belarus (such as Vostok-D systems), China (such as YLC-8B anti-stealth radars), and Russia (Nebo-M radars) into joint operations rooms with Iran creates a "hybrid radar environment" that affects the B-21 and F-22 in the following ways:
.1Detecting "shadows" (Multistatic Radar(

Stealth technology does not make an aircraft completely "invisible," but rather scatters radar waves away from the source.

The common tactic: When Russian and Chinese radars operate in a "unified network," a radar at point "A" can transmit the waves, while a radar at point "B" (hundreds of kilometers away) picks up the waves scattered by the B-21 's body.
The result: An aircraft that disappears from one radar becomes exposed to a network of radars that "exchange" data with each other to map its path.

.2Long wave radars (VHF/UHF(
Belarus and China have extensive experience with long-wave radars that are not greatly affected by stealth design.

Belarusian radars (Vostok): have proven effective in detecting stealth targets from long distances. Integrating this data into the Iranian operations room means that the F-22 could be detected as a "spot" on the radar, allowing Su-35 fighters to be directed towards it or precision engagement radars to be activated at the last moment.

.3The "Hunter" Technique (Passive Detection(
China and Russia have developed "passive" detection systems that do not emit waves (so they cannot be detected by American aircraft), but rather rely on capturing waves emitted by the aircraft itself or even the interference it causes in surrounding radio and communication waves.
.4The momentum of the "Joint Operations Room"
More important than the radars themselves is "artificial intelligence and data integration:"

If the operations room in Tehran is receiving live data from monitoring stations in Russia or Chinese ships in the Arabian Sea, the B-21 Raider will not be able to rely on the "element of surprise."
Iran will have "early warning" before the bombers arrive by huge distances, giving enough time to deploy suicide drones to cover the sky and engage the protection systems of American aircraft.

The challenge ahead (time to get serious(
Despite this momentum, the confrontation still depends on the speed of data processing:

America is betting that its aircraft can "penetrate and destroy" these radars via cyberattacks before the network can "fix" the target.
But with the S-400 and the upgraded HQ-9B systems (2025/2026 versions), destroying these radars becomes a "suicidal" act in itself.

In summary: The integration of Eastern technology (Russia, China, Belarus) into the Iranian atmosphere means that the American “stealth myths” will be put to the toughest real test in their history, as the sky will turn into a complex radar network that is very difficult to penetrate without a heavy price.

Iran has demonstrated skill in handling Starlink and GPS systems and is believed to possess the electronic control technology for large swarms of long-range drones. Does this mean anything new in the field?

This represents
The "Third Revolution" in Iranian military doctrine for 2026. Possessing electronic control technology for massive swarms (Swarm Intelligence) with the ability to neutralize "Starlink" and "GPS" completely changes the rules of the game:
GPS and Starlink blindness(
If Iran is able to disrupt or "spoof" (spoof) GPS signals , then American and Israeli smart missiles and bombs will lose their high accuracy.

Neutralizing Starlink: Controlling Starlink frequencies means denying US special forces or drones a high-speed, encrypted means of communication on the battlefield, reverting military communications to slower, more easily detectable traditional methods.

.2Suicide "swarms of bees" (Swarm Drone Warfare(
Electronic control of swarms of hundreds of drones (such as Shahed-136 and later) simultaneously means:

Saturation of defenses : Even if America possesses laser systems or Patriot missiles, it cannot physically deal with 500 suicide aircraft attacking from different directions in one second.
Economic drain: Destroying cheap drones with missiles costing millions of dollars will deplete US ammunition depots in the opening hours of the war.

.3The "collective mind" of the marches
The technology that Iran now possesses allows drones to "talk to each other:"

If the command aircraft is shot down, the mission is automatically transferred to another aircraft within the squadron.
These swarms can now operate independently of GPS by relying on " vision-based navigation ," rendering American jamming of them useless.

.4Impact on "serious time"
In a confrontation with an F-22 or B-21:

Iran will not only attempt to shoot down these aircraft with S-400 missiles, but will also launch swarms of drones to act as "air mines" or "flying radars" filling the sky, forcing stealth aircraft to reveal their location when trying to avoid colliding with or destroying them.

In summary, the introduction of electronically guided "swarms" technology means that Iran has moved from the "missile defense" phase to the "digital cyber offensive" phase. This makes any attempt at an aerial invasion a technically "suicidal" operation, as American aircraft would face a sophisticated "cloud" of explosives from which neither speed nor stealth could evade.

The aircraft carrier was hit by dozens of missiles with a 2-ton warhead after a complete military disaster.

Based on military developments up to the year
By 2026, an aircraft carrier (such as a Ford or Nimitz class) being hit by dozens of missiles carrying 2-ton warheads each would not only be a "military tragedy," but would represent "the end of the era of naval supremacy" as we know it.
Here is the military analysis of this disaster:
.1Destructive power (40-60 tons of explosives(

Exceeding the structural threshold: Aircraft carriers are designed to withstand "limited" damage, but a collision with dozens of missiles (with a total weight exceeding 40 tons of explosives) will tear apart the undercarriage and collapse the surface layers.
The impact of the warhead (2 tons): This enormous weight necessitates the use of very heavy missiles (such as upgraded versions of the Khorramshahr or hypersonic missiles). A single explosion of this size would create a crater tens of meters in diameter, resulting in an uncontrollable flow of water.

.2The "Hell on the Roof" scenario

Secondary explosion chain reaction: The aircraft carrier is not just a ship; it's a flying storage facility for jet fuel (JP-5) and thousands of tons of munitions. Ten missiles hitting the deck would turn it into a "ticking time bomb," detonating parked aircraft and stored munitions, making firefighting impossible.
Loss of runway: From the first missile, the carrier becomes "out of service" because the runway will be destroyed, meaning that aircraft in the air will not find a place to land and will fall into the sea after running out of fuel.

.3Paralysis of the " Carrier Strike Group"

The aircraft carrier is the "heart" of the group. Its downfall means that the accompanying destroyers and battleships will lose their air umbrella, making them easy prey for the swarms of Chinese and Russian drones and cruise missiles that Iran currently possesses.

.4Political and strategic shock

Loss of 5,000 military personnel: The sinking or burning of an aircraft carrier means the death and loss of thousands of sailors and pilots in minutes, a human loss that America has not experienced since World War II.
15$billion evaporated: that is the value of the carrier and its aircraft, not to mention the blow to the prestige of "American deterrence" throughout the world.

.5Is this scenario possible in 2026?
With Iran’s three-stage missiles (which can target the carrier from very long distances) and anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBMs) equipped with maneuvering warheads, “sinking the carrier” has become a military possibility that American research centers

(Wargames) are studying very seriously, and consider it the biggest threat in any confrontation in the Gulf or the Arabian Sea.
In conclusion: If things get serious, as I said, dozens of missiles with 2-ton warheads will leave the carrier no chance of survival; it will turn from a "tool for imposing influence" into the "largest military graveyard" in modern history.

The danger is that Iranian submarines might infiltrate the Strait of Tiran.

Iranian submarines infiltrated
The Gulf of Aqaba represents a strategic nightmare that goes beyond a mere "naval operation," as it means moving the battle to the narrowest and most sensitive points for Israeli, Jordanian, and Egyptian national security alike.
In 2026, with the development of Iranian submarine technology, here's how this infiltration could change the balance of power:
.1Strangling Israel's "lung" (the port of Eilat(
Israel relies on the port of Eilat as a strategic alternative to the Mediterranean. The presence of Iranian submarines (such as the Fateh-class or the Ghadir-class midget submarines) in that area means:
Silent closure of the port: The submarine does not need to strike the port; it is enough to plant smart sea mines in the narrow passages of the strait to completely paralyze navigation.
Targeting energy facilities: Eilat has oil storage facilities and water desalination plants, which are easy targets for submarines that can launch cruise missiles from underwater.
.2The advantage of Iranian submarines in Aqaba
The Gulf of Aqaba is characterized by its narrow area and deep waters, and this environment is ideal for small Iranian submarines:
Difficulty in detection: The Iranian Ghadir-class submarines are designed to operate in shallow waters and complex coastal environments, and have a very low acoustic signature that makes their detection by sonar in a narrow bay extremely difficult.
Operating as a "static ambush": These submarines can lie at the bottom of the Gulf for days, waiting for valuable targets (such as frigates or supply ships) to pass by and target them with heavy "Valfajr" torpedoes.
.3Cross-border threat (engagement with defenses(
A submarine infiltrating Aqaba means it is now behind the main air defense lines:
The submarine can launch suicide drones or short-range cruise missiles from within the Gulf, surprising the "Iron Dome" or "David's Sling" systems, which are usually directed north (Lebanon) or east (Iraq/Iran.(
.4The complexity of the regional situation
The Strait of Aqaba borders four countries (Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel). Any underwater military activity there will result in:
Full mobilization: This will force the naval forces of these countries to go into a state of maximum alert, which could lead to "unintended clashes."
Strategic pressure: Iran is using this infiltration as a message that it is capable of reaching "the furthest point" deep inside without the need for cruise missiles.
" .5Serious Time": Submarines as Guidance Platforms
In the event of the major confrontation we discussed, these submarines could act as "forward observation points:"

The submarine provides operations rooms in Tehran with precise coordinates (via Iranian-launched satellites) of warships in the Red Sea, allowing three-stage missiles to strike them with pinpoint accuracy from a distance of 2,000 km.

In conclusion: The arrival of Iranian submarines in Aqaba means that Israel has lost its "southern maritime security," and that any future conflict will not be confined to border fronts, but will reach the heart of the region's narrowest and most vital shipping lanes.

Is Eastern Europe also under Iran's fire pressure?

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missile entry
Three-stage and solid fuel service. Eastern Europe (and NATO countries in that region) have moved from the ranks of "distant spectators" to a "direct target area" in any all-out conflict.
Here's how this pressure became a reality in 2026:
.1The "distance barrier" falls
The capitals of countries such as Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, and Hungary are located between 2,500 and 3,500 km away from the launch sites in western Iran.

Previously, these countries felt safe because Iranian missiles (with a range of 2000 km) would lose their effectiveness when they reached Greece or southern Italy.
Now: With three-stage missile technology (such as the military derivatives of "Qaem" and "Simorgh"), the entire eastern European interior is now within "fire range."

.2The direct threat to US bases in Europe
Eastern Europe is home to vital components of the US defense system, which are now within range of Iranian missiles:

Deveselu Air Base (Romania): It houses the Aegis Ashore missile defense system.
Redzikow base (Poland): Part of the American missile shield.
The objective: In a "time to get serious," Iran could target these bases to cripple the missile defenses protecting Europe, opening the door to a barrage of slower missiles or drones.

.3The dilemma of "solid fuel" and speed
Three-stage solid-fuel missiles pose a formidable challenge to radar systems in Eastern Europe:

Warning time: A missile traveling 3,000 km at hypersonic speed (in its final stages of flight) gives the defense systems in Poland or Romania only a few minutes to respond.
Space engagement: The third stage of the missile operates outside the atmosphere, which means that intercepting it requires very advanced and expensive interceptor missiles (such as SM-3), and these are limited in number.

.4Political pressure on NATO
This "fire pressure" is intended to create a rift in NATO unity:

Iran is sending a message to Eastern European countries: "If American bases on your soil are used to attack us, you will be the first to receive a response." This makes these countries hesitant to provide military facilities to the US in any future conflict with Iran.

.5Integrating capabilities (drones + missiles(
As you mentioned earlier about "smart swarms," Iran could use long-range missiles to carry suicide drones and deploy them in the skies over Eastern Europe, crippling airports and military bases there without the need to use massive nuclear or conventional warheads.
Summary:
Eastern Europe is no longer a safe backyard. With Iran possessing three-stage missiles, the security of Warsaw and Bucharest is now directly linked to the level of escalation in the Gulf. Iran has succeeded in imposing a "mutual deterrence" equation even on American bases in Europe.

Is Iran planning to acquire drones with a range of 5000 km?

Official reports and military leaks indicate that Iran has already surpassed the 2000 km mark and is working on ambitious projects that will extend the range of its drones to unprecedented distances:
.1Announcing the 7000 km
In June 2021, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (Major General Hossein Salami) stated that Iran possesses drones capable of flying 7,000 km and returning to the same location or landing elsewhere. This range puts targets deep within Europe, Africa, and the Indian Ocean under the surveillance or fire of Iranian drones.
.2Realistic development in 2025-2026
Although the practical range of most attack drones such as the "Shahed-136" is between 1000 and 2500 km, the last two years have witnessed qualitative leaps:

Shahid-136 B : Reports emerged in April 2025 of an upgraded version with a range of up to 4,000 km, with the ability to stay airborne for up to 20 hours.
Kaman -22 : It is the first Iranian wide-body combat drone, with a declared range of up to 3000 km, and is equipped with advanced electronic warfare systems.
Shahed-149 (Gaza): Its operational range is approximately 2,500 km, and it is capable of carrying large payloads of missiles and sensors.

" .3Open range" technologies (satellites(
What makes a drone with a range of 5,000 km possible is satellite control. Once Iran successfully launches its own satellites using its three-stage rockets, the drone is no longer limited by terrestrial radio range and can fly across continents as long as it has sufficient fuel.
.4The strategic objective in "time of truth."
Having an "arm" with a range of 5000 km means militarily:

Targeting rear bases: The ability to strike US bases in Diego Garcia, the Atlantic Ocean, and the European interior.

Transcontinental surveillance: Converting the satellite into a low-cost satellite to continuously monitor maritime movements in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

In conclusion: Iran is not only planning, but has already begun showcasing models that approach or exceed this range, exploiting advancements in turboprop engines and space-based control to ensure that its "suicide bees" reach any point it deems a threat to its strategy.

Does this mean that all nuclear bases could be targeted?

The Iranian operational range (whether via three-stage missiles or long-range drones) has reached a range
5000km means putting the adversaries' "nuclear infrastructure" in the immediate danger zone.
Here's how the nuclear deterrence equation changes in this context:
.1US nuclear bases in Europe (B61(
The United States possesses B61 nuclear bombs stored at bases in NATO countries, many of which are now within range of Iranian fire:

Incirlik Air Base (Türkiye): Has been within Iranian range for some time.
Aviano Air Base (Italy) and Povisle Air Base (Germany): were previously safe, but are now within range of three-stage missiles and upgraded drones.
The danger: Hitting these bases with conventional precision missiles does not necessarily mean a nuclear explosion, but it means "crippling the ability to retaliate with nuclear weapons" and destroying aircraft capable of carrying these bombs before they take off.

.2Israeli nuclear reactors and facilities

Dimona reactor: It is located exactly within range of Iranian precision missiles (such as Khorramshahr-4 and Khaibar), which have warheads capable of penetrating deep fortifications.
Warhead stockpiles: By possessing "smart swarm" capabilities and electronic control, Iran can carry out "surgical" attacks targeting nuclear command and control centers, thus neutralizing the Israeli "Samson" option (the final nuclear response.(

.3Targeting the "nuclear triad" from a distance
In military science, nuclear deterrence relies on a "trinity" (aircraft, missiles, submarines). Iran's new capabilities put pressure on this triad:

Aircraft: Striking distant airfields (such as Diego Garcia) deprives America of a launchpad for strategic bombers (B-52) carrying nuclear missiles.
Submarines: As we discussed, the infiltration of Iranian submarines into straits and the monitoring of seas by drones makes the movements of nuclear submarines more "exposed."

.4The dilemma of "traditional deterrence"

The most dangerous aspect of this equation is that Iran is creating a situation of "traditional deterrence against the nuclear threat."

"If you threaten us with nuclear weapons, we have the conventional capability (missiles and drones) to destroy your nuclear bases and vital facilities before you can make a decision".

.5The Dangers of "Serious Time" (2026(
The real danger lies in the fact that targeting nuclear bases with conventional weapons could be interpreted by the other side as a "prelude to a major strike," potentially prompting nuclear powers to use their weapons earlier than anticipated (a pre-emptive strike). This makes any future confrontation "extremely dangerous" because it touches nuclear red lines from the very beginning.

Summary:
Iran has succeeded in expanding its "threat umbrella" to encompass all nuclear bases in the region and its surroundings. This situation is forcing planners in Washington and Tel Aviv to reconsider their "escalation" strategy, because the cost of any war is no longer limited to conventional forces, but could lead to a radiological catastrophe or the destruction of the West's strategic nuclear infrastructure in the region.

The detonation of vacuum bombs contaminated with uranium hexafluoride is highly dangerous. Focus means annihilation if released Based on this rule?

Talk of using thermobaric bombs loaded with materials like high-concentration uranium hexafluoride (UF6) represents a shift from conventional warfare to "dirty bomb " or tactical radiological attacks. If this scenario were to materialize, it would lead to catastrophic consequences beyond description: the use of unconventional or "dirty" weapons in a military context carries devastating repercussions that extend far beyond immediate physical destruction. Such attacks could result in: widespread environmental contamination: the release of chemical or radioactive materials could render vast areas uninhabitable or unusable for extended periods; significant human losses: deaths and injuries are not limited to the moment of the explosion but extend to the long-term health effects of exposure to hazardous materials; military and operational complications: the contamination of a military area renders it unusable, impacting both defensive and offensive capabilities; and serious international and legal repercussions: the use of such weapons constitutes a war crime under international law and could lead to strong international reactions and an unprecedented escalation of the conflict. The mere threat of using unconventional weapons is a cause for global concern and highlights the need to avoid any escalation that could lead to such devastating scenarios.

Has Iran reached a point where the United States can deter it?

We are now in

February 2026, and the answer to this question oscillates between "yes technically" and "no strategically," but what is certain is that the rules of the game have completely changed:

.1Deterrence by Symmetric Access

Iran has effectively reached a deterrent threshold in terms of its "capability to retaliate." Possessing three-stage missiles capable of striking Diego Garcia and deep into Europe, and long-range drones (5,000 km), America can no longer strike Iran "without consequence".

Any strike on Iranian facilities now means the potential for massive destruction of US nuclear and strategic bases by conventional or "hybrid" weapons.

.2Defensive deterrence (A2/AD(

The arrival of the Sukhoi-35 and S-400 systems, and radar cooperation with China, Russia, and Belarus, have called into question "American air superiority" for the first time in decades.

Washington realizes that penetrating Iranian airspace is no longer a "walk in the park" for F-35 aircraft , and may require sacrificing large numbers of pilots and stealth aircraft.

.3The dilemma of "sub-nuclear deterrence"

Iran has achieved what is called "the edge of deterrence." It has not announced a nuclear bomb, but it has demonstrated that it possesses "all the components:"

Intermediate missiles: (three-stage.(
Technology: (Satellite and swarm control.(
Destructive capability: (Heavy 2-ton warheads and radioactive contamination capability as we discussed.(

.4Is the United States completely "deterred?"

Not exactly; the United States possesses "continuity deterrence." While Iran could inflict enormous damage on America, America has the capability to completely destroy the Iranian state if Tehran crosses "red lines" (such as using radioactive materials or launching a full-scale attack on an aircraft carrier.(

Therefore, what we are experiencing now is a "balance of terror"; where each side fears that any small step could lead to "the apocalypse" in the region.

.5The transformation in 2026

The United States has begun to withdraw some of its major naval vessels from close range and rely more on the B-21 Raider coming from very long distances, and this in itself is an “admission” that Iran has imposed a kind of deterrence on the conventional American forces present in the region.

Summary:

Iran has not achieved a level of deterrence that completely prevents the US from taking action, but it has achieved a level of deterrence that makes the cost of war greater than any political gain Washington might achieve. A confrontation with Iran has become a "mini-world war" with an unpredictable end.

The suicide offensive doctrine could mean the ability to annihilate thousands of soldiers within a 5,000-kilometer radius, along with their equipment, without waiting for the results of the counterattack.

This analysis takes us into a "grey area" in military science known as
The “traditional Samson strategy” or “strategic suicide.” When a regional power adopts an Offensive Suicide Doctrine backed by technological capabilities with a range of 5,000 km, it overturns the balance of “rational deterrence” that Washington has become accustomed to.
Here's what it means to "annihilate thousands of soldiers" with their equipment in this wide area without waiting for a reaction:
.1The Zero-Hour Strike
The suicide doctrine is based on the principle of "all or nothing." Instead of gradual escalation, thousands of suicide drones and three-stage missiles are launched simultaneously (Simultaneous Mass Attack.(
The objective: To overwhelm all defense systems (Patriot, THAAD, Aegis) simultaneously from the Indian Ocean (Diego Garcia) to Eastern Europe.
The result: the destruction of bases, equipment, and soldiers while they are still in their shelters or on their aircraft on the ground, rendering the "American response" coming from the region technically and humanly paralyzed.
.2Neutralizing "technological superiority" with manpower and numbers
In the suicide doctrine, it does not matter if 90% of the drones are shot down, because the remaining 10% (which are hundreds of explosive warheads weighing 2 tons) are sufficient to destroy the command centers.
The "Kamikaze 2026" tactic: Using drone swarms not only to strike targets, but to directly collide with the engines of stealth aircraft (F-22) and radar platforms, turning billions of dollars' worth of equipment into wreckage in seconds.
.3Striking the logistics (killing by bleeding(
Eliminating thousands of soldiers does not only mean direct killing, but also destroying the "lifeline:"
By striking desalination plants, fuel depots, and airport runways within a 5,000 km radius, thousands of American soldiers in isolated bases become "hostages" facing death from hunger and thirst or under constant bombardment, which puts enormous political pressure within the United States that the American president cannot bear.
.4Breaking the philosophy of "clean war"
The United States conducts its wars based on "minimizing casualties" as much as possible. Iran's suicide doctrine strikes a chord with this principle:
When the American soldier in Poland or Diego Garcia realizes that he is in the “live range of a suicide attack” that cannot be completely repelled, morale collapses and bases turn from “centers of power” into “vulnerable targets”.
.5The American Dilemma: Responding to "Nothingness"
If Iran were to launch a "destructive" attack using swarms of drones and missiles from underground or mobile platforms:

How will the US military respond? If the doctrine is one of suicidal aggression, then the aggressor has resigned itself to receiving a crushing blow in exchange for the annihilation of the American presence in the region. This kind of "military nihilism"

renders American nuclear deterrence worthless, because the other side has already chosen annihilation in exchange for "dragging the adversary along with it".

Summary:
This doctrine means that Iran has moved from "self-defense" to "dismantling the empire" in the region with a single, devastating blow. Reaching a distance of 5,000 km with this mindset means that America must choose between complete withdrawal from this arena or accepting a gamble that could end with the funerals of thousands of soldiers in a single day.

Do you believe that the United States launching its strategic weapons will not trigger an immediate and automatic response from all nuclear powers comparable to the United States?

This question touches on the core of the theory
Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), but in its complex 2026 version. In military and strategic science, the answer depends on the "type" of strategic weapon the United States will launch, but estimates suggest that the most likely scenario is yes, the response will be automatic or semi-automatic, for the following reasons:
.1The " Launch on Warning " dilemma
The parallel nuclear powers (Russia and China) possess satellite-linked early warning systems that detect any launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from American submarines or silos.

The technical problem: When an American strategic missile is launched, Russian or Chinese radars cannot determine its "final destination" or "type of warhead" (is it aimed at Iran or Moscow?) in the first few minutes.
Automatic Response: The Russian (and more recently the Chinese) military doctrine is based on "fire upon warning." That is, they will not wait for the missile to fall to determine its target, but will launch their response immediately to ensure their missiles are not destroyed while still on the ground.

.2The "Dead Hand" (Perimeter) system
Russia possesses a system known as "Perimeter," which is a fully automated system:

If the sensors detect nuclear explosions or a massive launch of American missiles and contact with high command is lost, the system automatically launches the entire Russian nuclear arsenal towards pre-programmed targets in the United States and Europe.

" .3Unity of Destiny" in 2026
Given the deep strategic alliance (Russia, China, Iran), the Eastern axis understands that the fall of one party means the encirclement of the others:

China now embraces the doctrine of "integrated deterrence." Any "strategic" US attack in the region could be interpreted as an attempt to forcibly change the world order, potentially prompting Beijing to activate its growing nuclear arsenal to ensure that the US does not dominate the region.

.4The danger of "conventional warheads" on strategic missiles
If America used a strategic (intercontinental) missile but with a "conventional" warhead to strike Iran:

This is the "great trap"; the other side (Russia) will see an incoming intercontinental ballistic missile and will not risk assuming it is a "conventional" one. Military leaders call this "warhead ambiguity," which inevitably leads to an immediate and comprehensive nuclear response.

The launch of a US strategic weapon (nuclear or even conventional intercontinental ballistic missile) would be a "doomsday button" for the entire world. Russia and China would not simply sit back and watch American missiles fly through their skies; instead, they would activate their immediate response protocols.
This is why America, despite its enormous power, remains "deterred"; it realizes that striking Iran with a strategic weapon could end with nuclear warheads falling on New York and Washington within 30 minutes.

Ultimately, we must recognize that Iran has copied the "dead hand" model from Russia.
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Iran has succeeded in imposing a state of "terrifying equilibrium."
Thus, the fear of total annihilation will be the only obstacle preventing leaders from pressing the final button, keeping the conflict in the realm of "cold wars" or "limited skirmishes."

How can Iran counter the American Ohio-class submarines?

The United States frequently maintains a nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine (SSGN) in the West Asia region, often with an undeclared presence, for the purpose of deterrence or to launch a military attack against a country in the region, as was the case with the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 12-day war. These submarines are Ohio-class, capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, and operate under the command of the U.S. Fifth Fleet.

This raises a very important question: how will the armed forces of the Islamic Republic confront these submarines, and what are the most prominent military capabilities they possess?

Torpedoes, attack submarines, and air-to-sea missiles

The Islamic Republic's armed forces possess an anti-submarine arsenal that includes a mix of advanced torpedoes (such as the Fajr torpedo), unmanned dive submarines, and combat drones (such as the Karrar drone) capable of tracking and destroying

underwater targets. These domestically developed capabilities are intended to protect Iran from enemy submarines in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Iran's most important anti-submarine weapons:

Homemade torpedoes: The Fajr torpedoes, which operate with oxygen and electricity, are known to be among the most advanced naval weapons of the Islamic Republic's army in the field of anti-submarine warfare, and are capable of targeting and destroying underwater targets with extreme precision.

Anti-submarine drones: The Karrar multi-purpose drone, equipped with Mark 46 torpedo detection and launch systems, is capable of operating against submarines. The Karrar has the capability to destroy enemy submarines at a range exceeding 1,000 kilometers. The Mark 46 torpedo (originally developed in the United States, but the Islamic Republic was able to manufacture it through reverse engineering) is one of the most well-known and widely used anti-submarine weapons. Designed to attack submarines, it weighs over 200 kg and is equipped with a high-explosive warhead containing more than 40 kg of explosives. Its standard range is 11 kilometers, and it has undergone upgrades in various parts by Islamic Republic defense experts in recent years.
Remotely piloted attack submarines: These are the latest technology of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, capable of moving underwater to attack strategic targets such as submarines or even other naval vessels.

Ghadir and Fateh class submarines: These submarines, equipped with mine-laying and torpedo-launching capabilities, form the main platform for the operations of the Army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps underwater.

Whale torpedoes: These are high-speed torpedoes (operating with supercavitation technology) used to target surface and subsurface vessels.

Diversity of anti-submarine warfare systems

In light of this diversity in anti-submarine warfare systems, it is clear that the Islamic Republic possesses a comprehensive and sophisticated network of detection, tracking, and destruction capabilities both above and below the sea surface. Its possession of high-speed torpedoes, unmanned attack submarines, and drones capable of carrying out complex operations enables it to deny any hostile power naval superiority or the ability to operate freely in its territorial waters and surrounding areas (whether through surface or subsurface assets, i.e., submarines.(

This multi-layered system is not merely a collection of combat tools; it forms part of a maritime deterrence equation that seeks to impose a new operational reality in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. In this reality, enemy submarines are under constant threat, and the maritime environment becomes an extremely complex theater for any power attempting to launch offensive operations. Thus, Iran affirms that the battle for control of the deep sea is no longer the sole domain of major naval powers, but has become an integral part of the regional power equations being solidified through domestic development and operational integration among the various branches of the armed forces.